

2007 TSAG Workshop
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Alberta Region Update

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Presentation Outline

- Current EHS Staffing Situation
- Regional Water Sampling Update
- Current Drinking Water Advisories
- Community Water Teams
- Discussion



Current EHS Staffing Issues

- Currently short 5 (out of 12) EHO positions
- 3 vacant permanent EHO positions
- 2 vacant term positions (maternity leaves)
- Hope to fill the positions within the next few months
- In the meantime all EHO are working to cover the region as best as possible



Alberta FN Water Sampling Summary



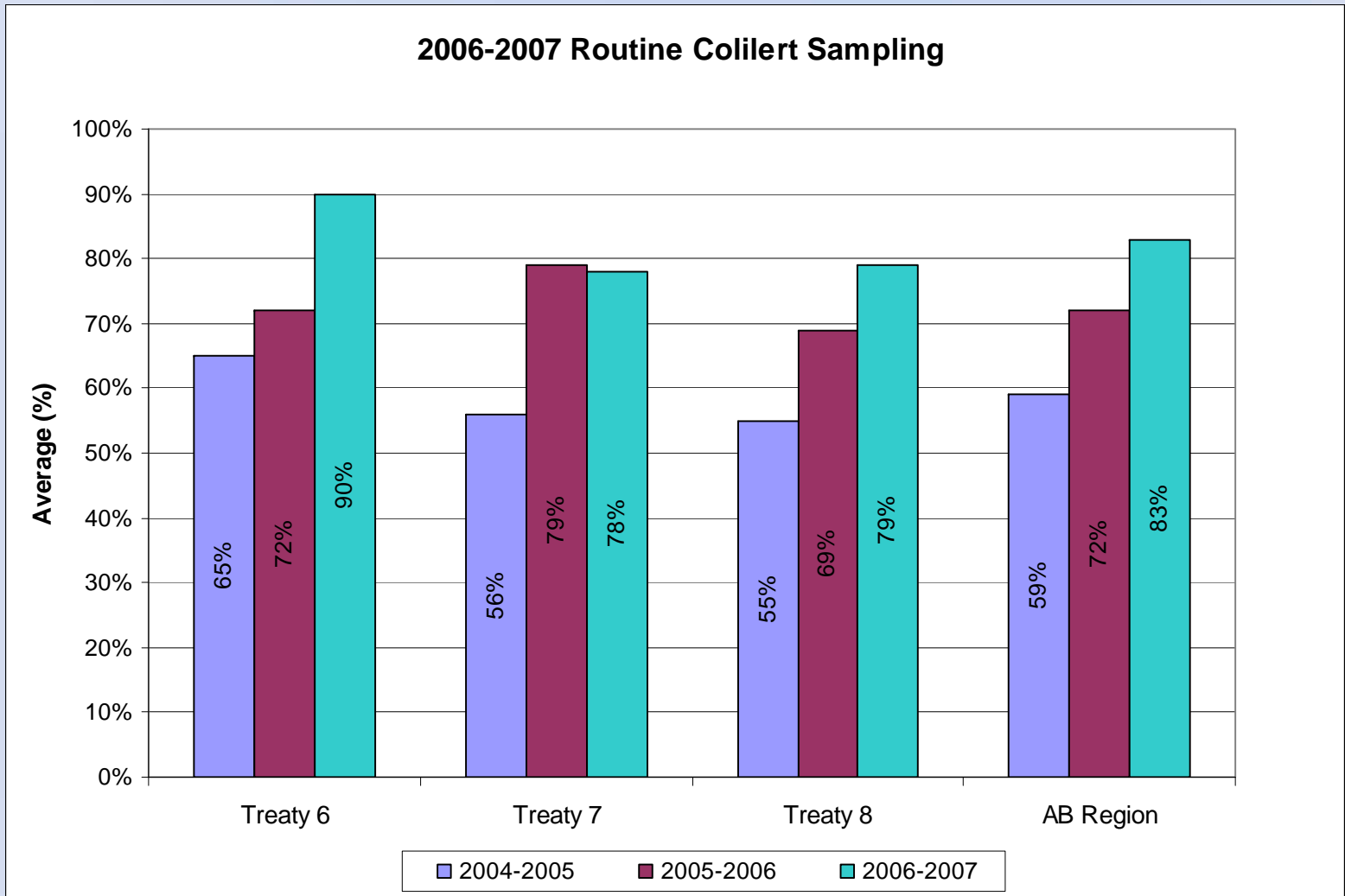
Community Water Sampling Activities 2003-2007

Table 9: Levels of Community and Public Water Microbiological Sampling/Testing, 2003 -2007.

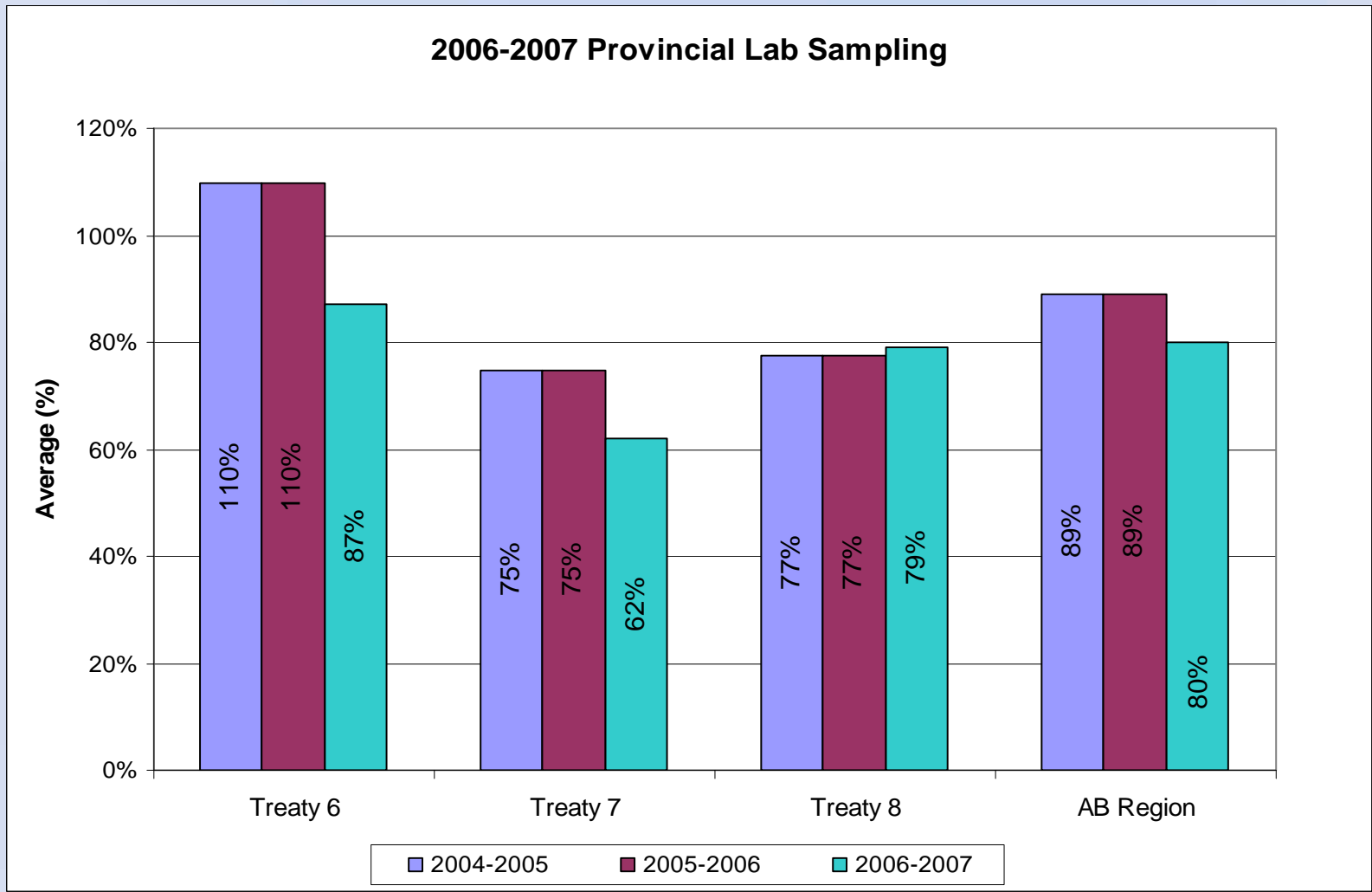
Year	Percentage of Required Routine Sampling/ Testing Achieved	Percentage of Quality Assurance Sampling/ Testing Achieved
2003-2004	39%	64%
2004-2005	58%	58%
2005-2006	72%	71%
2006-2007	*83%	*80%

*The methods used to calculate averages changed in 2006-2007. All communities exceeding the required sampling levels were counted as having achieved 100 per cent rather than including actual sampling levels which inflate the average.

2006-2007 Community Colilert Sampling



2006-2007 Provincial Lab QA/QC Sampling





Current Alberta FN Drinking Water Advisories



Current Drinking Water Advisories in Alberta First Nations

(as of November 5, 2007)

- 2 Community Water Supplies (CWS)
- 6 Individual wells serving public buildings (PWS)
- 1 Cistern serving a public facility (TPWS)

Please note that these are for public facilities only and do not reflect the current advisories for private dwellings



Community-Based Drinking Water Teams



Purpose of the Water Teams

- Need for improvement in sampling, addressing outstanding advisories and communication as a whole
- Review the existing roles and responsibilities during a drinking water emergency and make stakeholders and individuals aware of what is expected of them.
- Identify key individuals to participate in drinking water advisories at a local level.
- We (all of us) tend to be more reactionary with respect to emergencies and advisories





Purpose of Water Teams

- Establishing open lines of communication
- Outlining roles and responsibilities so that everyone understands the respective roles of all stakeholders
- Working together to resolve potential and outstanding issues, such as long standing Drinking Water Advisories
- We (all stakeholders) need to be more proactive and preventative in our approach rather than getting together only in times of crisis.



Responsibilities

- There are a number of stakeholder responsible for ensuring safe drinking water in First Nations Communities
- The same stakeholders are involved in responding to issues related to drinking water
- Broadly speaking these stakeholders include:
 - First Nations Leadership and Public Works
 - Technical Services Advisory Group
 - Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
 - Health Canada

Composition

- The Community-based Water Team The team should consist of individuals who are directly involved in the community such as:
 - First Nations - Public Works - Water Treatment Plant Operator/Public Works Director
 - Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Project Officer
 - Technical Services Advisory Group - Circuit Rider Trainer
 - Health Canada - Environmental Health Officer
 - Health Centre/Nursing Station
 - Community-based Drinking Water Quality Monitor/CHR
 - Health Director or designate



Examples of Water Team Activities

- The Regional Water Team should meet regularly to discuss water issues in the region
 - Share information
 - Planning and preparing for emergencies
 - Review of water emergencies in the region
 - Review and development/update of protocols and procedures.
 - Maintaining, sharing and regular review of operational results and finished water quality.



Examples of Water Team Activities

- In the event of a drinking water emergency in a community, the Regional Team should be able to:
 - Activate the emergency action plans
 - Be able to take decisive actions to correct deficiencies that led to the water emergency
 - Communicate effectively
 - Deal with any outstanding issues



Community Water Teams

- Environmental Health Services will be working with your community to further develop and strengthen the community based water teams
- We need your continued assistance and involvement to ensure the common goal of safe and healthy communities.

“You must be the change you want to see in the world”

Mahatma Ghandi



Thank-You

Discussion & Questions?